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Attorney Docket: 313MC/48531
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: KENJI YAMAMURA ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/485,464

Group Art Unit: 1742

Filed: FEBRUARY 4, 2000

Examiner: Andrew E. WESSMAN

Title: ROLLING BEARING

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01/10/03

REPLY

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following remarks are respectfully submitted in response to the Official Action dated October 2, 2002.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 2, 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Patent 5,122,000) in view of Mitamura (U.S. Patent 5,626,974), and further in view of Murakami et al. (U.S. Patent 5,352,303). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Mitamura, and further in view of Murakami et al., as applied to claims 1, 2, 4 and 11, and further in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent 6,086,686). For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

1. The Claimed Invention

The claimed invention relates to a rolling bearing which is of extremely small size and high-density and can operate at a high rotational speed, such as for use in an HDD spindle of a memory device for computers.